

## NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 13, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Emma Weaver of New Trier High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Weaver is the third Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from New Trier High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Weaver as Illinois' best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Weaver joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-8 junior midfielder and forward recorded 33 goals and 13 assists this past season, leading the Trevians (23-3-5) to the Class 3A state quarterfinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Weaver was named a 2019 Allstate All-American. She concluded her junior year with 60 goals and 35 assists in her prep soccer career.

Weaver has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach, and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Emma is dynamic and scores in so many ways which makes her the most dangerous player in the state," said Steve Goletz, head coach of Naperville North High. "Her work rate, intensity and soccer ability have made her one of the best kids I've seen in the state since I've been coaching at North."

Weaver has maintained a weighted 3.65 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Villanova University beginning in the fall of 2020.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Weaver joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Hailey Rydberg (2017-18, St. Charles North High School), Emma Thomson (2016-17, Maine South High School), Kelly Maday (2015-16, New Trier High School), and Jenna Szczesny (2014-15 & 2013-14, Barrington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Weaver also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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